

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION

Appln. No. 10/729,763

Docket No. 442005-00122

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-11, 13, 15-18, and 20-25 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,515,271 to Auciello et al. ("Auciello '271"). Claims 10-11, 21, and 24-25 have been allowed. Claims 2 and 7-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 13 and 15-18 have been withdrawn pursuant to an election filed July 2, 2007, and are cancelled without prejudice. Claim 2 has been cancelled, as explained below, and dependent claims 26-34 have been submitted for examination.

Amendments to claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-11, 20-21, and 24-25

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 2 and to make minor grammatical changes. Claim 7 has been amended to represent the subject matter of the claim in independent form, including all of the limitations of prior base claim 1. Claim 8 has not been amended, but now depends from an allowable base claim. We respectfully request entry of these amendments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(2).

New claims 26-34

New dependent claims 26-30, duplicating dependent claims 2, 4-6, and 20, are submitted for examination. We respectfully submit that these amendments require only cursory review in light of the examiner's finding that dependent claim 7, reciting placement of the void former of prior claim 1 within a mass of plastic concrete in a specified manner, is allowable if rewritten in independent form.

New dependent claims 31-32, duplicating dependent claim 25, are also submitted for examination. We respectfully submit that these claims, supported by page 8 lines 3-6 of the specification and all of the illustrated embodiments, do not raise an issue that would require

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additional consideration or search, and depend from otherwise allowed claims 1 and 7, as discussed above.

Finally, new dependent claims 33-34, duplicating dependent claims 5 and 6, are submitted for examination. We respectfully submit that these claims, supported by page 4 lines 16-19 of the specification and figures 1-2, as well as the uses described from page 8 line 17 onwards, do not raise an issue that would require additional consideration or search, and depend from allowed claim 10.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, we respectfully submit that the present claims are allowable over the art of record and pray for a prompt allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required by this filing, or to credit any overpayment of fees submitted with this filing, to Deposit Account No. 20-0809.

Respectfully submitted,

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